

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim ~~[[3]]~~14, which has a chemically strengthened layer in a surface thereof and wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass substantially contains, by mol%, more than 50 % but not more than 70 % of SiO₂, 1 to 10 % of Al₂O₃, 15 to 25 % of CaO, 1 to 15 % of BaO, 3 to 15 % of K₂O, 0 to 3 % of MgO, 0 to 15 % of SrO, 0 to 10 % of TiO₂, more than 0 % but not more than 12 % of ZrO₂, 0 to less than 1 % of Li₂O, 1 to 8 % of Na₂O and 0 to 1 % of ZnO.

7. (currently amended) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in ~~claim 1~~ + claim 13 or 14, which has an average linear thermal expansion coefficient (α), measured at a temperature of 100 to 300°C, of $70 \times 10^{-7}/^{\circ}\text{C}$ or more.

8. (currently amended) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in ~~claim 1~~ + claim 13 or 14, wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass has a specific gravity of 3.5 or less.

9. (currently amended) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in ~~claim 1~~ + claim 13 or 14, which is a substrate for a perpendicular-magnetic-recording-mode information recording medium.

10. (currently amended) An information recording medium comprising an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium as recited in ~~claim 1~~ + claim 13 or 14.

11. (currently amended) The information recording medium as recited in ~~claim 10~~claim 13 or 14, which is a perpendicular magnetic recording medium.

12. (canceled).

13. (new) A substrate for an information recording medium, which substrate is made of an alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass formed from SiO₂, Al₂O₃, CaO, BaO, K₂O, MgO, SrO, TiO₂, ZrO₂, Li₂O, Na₂O and ZnO which has no chemically strengthened layer and wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass substantially contains, by mol%, more than 50 % but not more than 70 % of SiO₂, 1 to 12 % of Al₂O₃, 2 to 25 % of CaO, more than 0 % but not more than 15 % of BaO, 3 to 15 % of K₂O, 0 to 10 % of MgO, 0 to 15 % of SrO, 0 to 10 % of TiO₂, 0 to 12 % of ZrO₂, 0 to less than 1 % of Li₂O, 0 to 8 % of Na₂O and 0 to 1 % of ZnO, provided that BaO is present in an amount of more than 5% by weight, the glass having a glass transition temperature (Tg) of 620°C or higher and satisfying a requirement that the alkali ion elution amount per a unit area when the glass is immersed in water having a temperature of 80°C for 24 hours is 0.2 μmol/cm² or less.

14. (new) A substrate for an information recording medium, which substrate is made of an alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass formed from SiO₂, Al₂O₃, CaO, BaO, K₂O, MgO, SrO, TiO₂, ZrO₂, Li₂O, Na₂O and ZnO which has a chemically strengthened layer in a surface thereof and wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass substantially contains, by mol%, more than 50 % but not more than 70 % of SiO₂, 1 to 10 % of Al₂O₃, 2 to 25 % of CaO, 1 to 15 % of BaO, 3 to 15 % of K₂O, 0 to 3 % of MgO, 0 to 15 % of SrO, 0 to 10 % of TiO₂, more than 0 % but not more than 12 % of ZrO₂, 0 to less than 1 % of Li₂O, 1 to 8 % of Na₂O and 0 to 1 % of ZnO, the total content of SiO₂, Al₂O₃ and ZrO₂ being more than 70 % by weight, provided that BaO is present in an amount of more than 5% by weight, the glass having a glass transition temperature (Tg) of 620°C or higher and satisfying a requirement that the alkali ion elution amount per a unit

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area when the glass is immersed in water having a temperature of 80°C for 24 hours is 0.2 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^2$ or less.